



Microcredit Utilization and Youth Entrepreneurship Development in South Sudan: A Socio-Economic Assessment

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Abstract

South Sudan faces significant socioeconomic challenges including low economic productivity and high unemployment among youth. Microcredit has emerged as a potential tool to support entrepreneurship development but its impact on job creation remains underexplored. The study employed ethnographic research methods to conduct fieldwork among selected youth entrepreneurs who have received microfinance support. Data collection involved semi-structured interviews, observations, and document review. Microcredit recipients reported significant improvements in their business operations, with a notable increase of 25% in the number of hires per entrepreneur over a one-year period post-microcredit access. This study underscores the potential of microcredit to catalyze youth entrepreneurship and job creation in South Sudan. However, further research is needed to explore broader socio-economic impacts and sustainability. Policy makers should consider integrating microfinance programmes into existing economic development strategies. Additionally, capacity building initiatives for entrepreneurs are recommended to enhance their business acumen and resilience.

Keywords: *African geography, microfinance, youth empowerment, entrepreneurship studies, qualitative methodology, community development, socio-economic analyses*

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